

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01270 051102Z

67

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-05 FEA-01 INT-05 TRSE-00

EB-07 OES-03 /099 W

----- 006206

R 051022Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3134

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1270

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IZ, TU

SUBJECT: SYRIA, IRAQ AND EUPHRATES WATERS

REF: BAGHDAD 334 (NOTAL)

1. SEVERAL SYRIAN OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS
ON IRAQ'S ACCUSATIONS REGARDING EXCESSIVE SYRIAN USE
OF EUPHRATES WATERS, GENERALLY SHIFTING RESPONSIBILITY
FOR INADEQUATE FLOW TO TURKEY. MINISTER OF EUPHRATES
DAM KAHHALE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT WATER SHORTAGE WAS CAUSED
PRIMARILY BY TURKEY'S DECISION CONTINUE DIVERTING WATERS
TO ITS OWN RESERVOIR. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT EXCESSIVE
SALINITY WAS LONG-TERM PROBLEM OF IRAQ'S OWN MAKING,
CAUSED BY ITS "SLOPPY DRAINAGE ENGINEERING." SENIOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01270 051102Z

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONSIDERED AN EXPERT ON

EUPHRATES WATER ISSUE TOLD EMBOFF THAT SYRIA IS TAKING NO MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF WATER BUT THAT TURKEY, WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO CEASE FILLING RESERVOIR BEHIND ITS MAJOR DAM ON EUPHRATES LAST SUMMER, IS STILL DIVERTING WATER FOR THIS PURPOSE. SECOND MFA SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT WATER LEVEL THIS YEAR LOW IN ANY CASE, AND ADMITTED INGENOUSLY THAT NOT MUCH LEFT FOR IRAQ ONCE TURKEY AND SYRIA TAKE THEIR SHARE EUPHRATES WATERS.

2. COMMENT: SYRIAN AUTHORITIES TAKE VIEW THAT LOW EUPHRATES WATER LEVEL CAUSED BY TURKISH DECISION DIVERT MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF WATER, AND GIVE NO INDICATION THAT SYRIA MAY HAVE TAKEN POLITICAL DECISION USE EURPHRATES RIVER WATERS AS MEANS TO EXERT PRESSURE ON IRAQI BAATHIST REGIME. IT HAS NO DOUBT OCCURRED TO SARG, HOWEVER, THAT WATER FLOW PRESENTS POSSIBILITIES FOR RETALIATION WHEN PRESENT OIL TRANSIT AGREEMENT ENDS AND IRAQI PIPELINES ACROSS TURKEY AND TO BASRA ARE COMPLETED.
PELLETREAU

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, ALLEGATIONS, WATER DIVERSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC01270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750119-0078
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750478/aaaactkv.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BAGHDAD 334
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIA, IRAQ AND EUPHRATES WATERS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, IZ, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006